

EX PARTE COLLATE FILED

02-277

GARY L. KNUTSON

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May 5, 2003

MAY 27 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Michael J. Copps
Kevin J. Martin
Jonathan S. Adelstein

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Confirmed**MAY 07 2003**

Re: 02-277 Broadcast Ownership Rules

Distribution Center

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

This is to communicate my deep concern for a continued unfettered American airwaves. As the vote for a change in broadcast ownership rules looms in the near future, my concerns deepen. It is obvious that the media moguls have restricted public knowledge of this upcoming FCC vote, by not even mentioning it on national news or public information venues. Perhaps hoping for a quiet monopolizing of the airwaves.

As a free marketer, I have supported the deregulation of many industries. I have firmly believed that this deregulation was in the best interest of America. However in this case it is exactly in reverse. The media giants like Time Warner, Viacom and Disney have proven their desire to manipulate the dissemination of information in a biased and controlled manner. If these entities were to own broadcast properties from the local stations and up, they would completely control the information on American airwaves. That's not in the best interest of Americans.

By copying this letter to my congressional delegates and the President, I hope they will investigate and propose alternatives, which are in America's best long-term interest. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Knutson

CC: President George W. Bush
Whitehouse Fax - (202) 456-2461

Senator Norm Coleman
Fax - (202) 224-1152

Senator Mark Dayton
Fax - (202) 228-2186

Representative Jim Ramstad
Fax - (202) 225-6351



To: Michael K. Powell, Chairman, FCC

Fax: 202-418-0232

From: Caroline and Albert Jacobson
17 Longfellow Rd.
Needham, MA 02494
quincejel@aol.com

Date: May 5, 2003

Subject: FCC media regulation

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Prevent any weakening the rules concerning media ownership. We need a wide variety of viewpoints from many news gathering organizations to be informed citizens and wise voters in a democracy. The media is already too consolidated and any further steps in that direction will be decidedly un-American.

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MAY 07 2003

Distribution Center

*******COVER PAGE**

To : Commissioner Michael Copps
Sent : 5/5/2003 at 2:54:50 PM
Subject : May 12 San Rafael Hearing

From : Peter Franck
Pages : 4 (including Cover)

Commissioner Copps' cc of letter of concern sent today to Congresswoman Woolsey, re the planned May 12 event in San Rafael Follow.

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Federal Communications Commission
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F. P E T E R F R A N C K

Intellectual Property, Cultural and Constitutional Rights

May 5, 2003

Honorable Lynn Woolsey
Representative 6th Congressional District, California
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: May 12 FCC "hearing" concerns and request

Dear Congresswoman Woolsey,

I am writing to you as a constituent, and on behalf of the Media Democracy Task Force of the Social Justice Center of Marin to share some serious concerns and request broadening changes in May 12 session concerning pending changes in FCC regulations.

A week ago we attended a wonderful hearing held by Federal Communications Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein all day at the San Francisco City Hall Chambers which was packed for the whole 7 hours. While we are pleased that you and Commissioner Copps are holding a session at Dominican College on Monday May 12th, we have some concerns with that session.

It is terribly important that you and Commissioner Copps are able to take back to Washington, to your colleagues in the House, and his colleagues at the FCC the depth and breath of concern in your district over Chairman Powell's proposal to remove the few remaining restrictions on absolute media consolidation. As the only Marin County-based organization working exclusively around the issues of media access and media consolidation we are, frankly, disappointed with the short time allocated to this session, and, in truth, the line-up of speakers.

While we appreciate that there will be some time allocated, apparently after all of the formal speeches, to public and student comment, we do not feel that the panel represents the concerns of this community. As a start, you have four white men, which does not reflect the diversity of your district, nor does that represent the most underserved (by the current media) communities.

We also note that of the five panelists, two, Mr. Grossman and Mr. Burgess, represent established corporate media. Mr. Grossman is publisher of the Marin Independent

Woolsey, May 5, 03

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Journal (IJ), part of a newspaper chain. The IJ has consistently under-reported issues such as the controversy over the abandonment by the Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA) of its responsibility to stand up to Comcast (the new owner of the local cable system). The IJ has distorted virtually every report of antiwar activity that it has even chosen to run.

Mr. Burgess is general manager of KFTY, a Clear Channel station and a Vice-President of Clear Channel Communications. Clear Channel is just about this country's largest media monopolist (owning twelve hundred out of about 5,000 U.S. radio stations, while the next largest group owns only two hundred and fifty). It has consistently defied even the present FCC ownership limits by "parking" certain stations, under nominally different ownership, but which are in fact run, administered and profited from by Clear Channel. Clear Channel is notorious for banning the most innocuous peace oriented musical compositions from its airwaves. At the height of the recent gulf war, instead of objectively reporting the news, Clear Channel organized mass rallies *in support of the war*. It is well known for engaging in anti-competitive practices by the interlocking use of its control of musical airplay and most of the concert venues in this country. It deceives local communities by pretending to have local announcers, while in fact they are either on tape, or in Pittsburgh, or both. The liany of Clear Channel's violation of the letter of the law and the spirit of open and democratic media could go on.

While we have the greatest respect for Orville Shell, as Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Berkeley, that is an East Bay organization or may be seen as a national organization. It is not a Marin or Sonoma-based organization.

We are asking that you and Commissioner Copps extend the time of the Monday May 12th hearing beyond the short two hours now allocated, and that you include as panelists (not just supplicants from the floor) representative media and community activists from your district.

You will recall that you and I met briefly when a group of KPFA activists, terribly concerned about the (then apparently successful) attempt to take over Pacifica Radio by conservative and non-activist forces, met with you in your office in San Rafael. That activism by Marin and Sonoma County residents, as well as others across the country resulted, as I am sure you know, in Pacifica resuming its rightful role as an independent, alternative and peace-oriented media. Carol Spooner, now a member of the interim Pacifica board and lead plaintiff in the Listeners' Lawsuit authorized by the California Attorney General, is a constituent of yours. North Bay for KPFA has continued to be active on these matters, as has our group.

Woolsey, May 3, 03
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One of the most exciting media innovations in this county in years is the new FM radio station KWMR in West Marin. As such, they brought a new voice and freshness to the airwaves there.

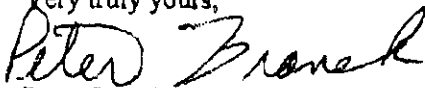
Our own group is involved in a desperate struggle to prevent the new cable provider, Comcast, from strangling public access television, diversity of channels available, and a fair "on-ramp" to the internet.

"Canal Radio" broadcasts every-day concerns of the canal community of San Rafael over the San Rafael High School FM station. ISOGI Foundation in Marin City has been vitally concerned with the fact that local media, even under present regulations, does not serve the needs of that community.

We could list many more. We ask that you and Commissioner Copps listen to and feature the voices of your constituents, rather than just the voice of corporate media and "experts."

Thank you very much for your attention.

Very truly yours,



Peter Franck

Chair, Media Democracy Task Force, SJCM

Cc: Wendy Friefeld, 6th District Office
Commissioner Copps
SJCM Media Democracy Task Force

02-277

Dear Mr. Powell:

I urge you ~~not~~ to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,



**Mr. Keith Shannahan
Baylis, Illinois 62314-0072**

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